

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a membrane;
3 a button structure disposed on one surface of the membrane; and
4 a nib corresponding to the button structure and disposed on another surface
5 of the membrane, wherein the apparatus is configured to be operatively coupled to a
6 touchscreen display so that when a user applies a force to the button structure the nib
7 contacts the touchscreen display so as to activate a virtual button being displayed by the
8 touchscreen display.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane comprises a
2 flexible and resilient material.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure comprises a
2 translucent portion.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane comprises a fiber
2 optic plate.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure comprises a
2 haptic structure.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure is one of a
2 plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button
3 structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a lighting device to
2 selectively illuminate the button structure.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a device to change a
2 direction of a beam directed onto the device.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane is sized to be press
2 fitted into a recessed portion of a mobile electronic device, wherein the membrane is
3 disposed within the recess to position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen display.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve to contain a
2 mobile electronic device that includes the touchscreen display, wherein the sleeve is to
3 position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen display.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure and nib are
2 slidably fitted to a slot in the membrane.

1 12. An apparatus to be operatively coupled to a touchscreen display for
2 operating a virtual button displayed by the touchscreen display, the apparatus comprising:
3 a membrane; and

4 tactile means, coupled to the membrane, for selectively contacting a
5 touchscreen display at a desired location in response to a force exerted on the tactile
6 means by a user.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the membrane comprises a
2 flexible and resilient material.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a
2 translucent portion.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the membrane comprises a fiber
2 optic plate.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a
2 haptic structure.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a
2 plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button
3 structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a lighting device to
2 selectively illuminate a portion of the apparatus.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a device to change a
2 direction of a beam directed onto the device.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 12 the membrane is sized to be press fitted
2 into a recessed portion of a mobile electronic device, wherein the membrane is disposed
3 within the recess to position a portion of the tactile means in propinquity with the
4 touchscreen display.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a sleeve to contain a
2 mobile electronic device that includes the touchscreen display, wherein the sleeve is to
3 position a portion of the tactile means in propinquity with the touchscreen display.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means further
2 comprises a means for slidably contacting the touchscreen display.